

Testimony before Congress
House Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public
Buildings and Emergency Management
By: Clay Mankamy, Flight 93 Volunteer Ambassador
and Taskforce Committee member
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The events of Sept 11th, 2001 and subsequent related events hold special significances for me as a volunteer ambassador at the temporary memorial and a resident of nearby town of Shanksville. I have witnessed my fellow ambassadors standing in wind chills well below zero as well as in the burning sun with the heat index over 100 degrees just to welcome total strangers to the sight and to tell the story of the heroic deeds that ended there.

I still often have to wipe away tears and chock back my emotions as I watch men, women and children do the same as they relive the tragic, yet so very inspiring end to Flight 93. The story is special to me because 40 ordinary people, the vast majority of whom were total strangers, agreed without open decent to take action they knew would likely cost them their lives.

Not only was this the sight of the first battle fought in the War on Terror but the first victory, this victory came at a great price, but it was a victory none the less. It is the place where the Battle Cry for the war against terrorists was coined. Todd Beamer helped lead the insurrection on board with the command “Let’s roll”. This Battle Cry will go down in history much like “No taxation without representation,” or “Remember the Alamo”. Let’s Roll was used by our President to inspire a nation still in shock but needing to prepare for war. This inspiring slogan was placed on the cockpit of bombers in Afghanistan and appeared on jet fighters over Iraq. Now it is time for it to appear in our nation’s capital and on a permanent memorial in that field of honor near Shanksville Pa.

This heroic story must be told down through the generations to continue to inspire the nation to remain vigilant in guarding our God given liberties as does the battle fields of our war of liberation and the Alamo. It must serve as a reminder of the cost of complacency or underestimating the threat to our way of life posed by the enemies of free speech, freedom of worship and the right to be secure in your own property. This story must be told, unedited by the forces of political correctness, heralding the deep religious conviction and strong moral character that motivated the passengers and crew of flight 93.

They have done their part. We ambassadors are doing ours. The partners, including the families of the victims, the committee members and commission are doing their part in working to erect a fitting memorial at the crash site. It is now time for Congress to do its part. Please pass this resolution, erect a commemorative plaque in the Capital. Help us finish the work that needs to be done on that sacred ground in Pennsylvania on behalf of a grateful nation which is in desperate need of heroes and inspiration to carry on in the fight begun on Sept 11th, 2001.